However, the projects at Item Nos. 2 to 5 could not be considered in view of acute constraint of resources.

Vacant Railway Land

1926. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge lands belonging to Railways are lying vacant;

(b) whether Government proposed to lease these lands for commercial purposes to increase the revenue of Railway; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Railways have about 4,23,000 hectares (ha) of land out of which 20,000 ha of land is vacant, mostly in longitudinal strips along the track. This land is required by Railway for its own use. The land which is not needed for immediate use, however, is utilised temporarily for plantation, commercial licensing for purposes directly connected with Railway working etc.

New Trains in Rajasthan

†1927. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether people of Rajasthan have demanded connectivity of the State by railway lines with various States of the country in view of its vast potential for the same;

(b) the steps being taken by Government for introducing new trains from Anoopgarh to Delhi via Bhatinda (express train running at night), Jodhpur to Thiruvananthapuram, Amritsar to Mumbai via Bikaner, Jodhpur and Ahmedabad and Coimbatore to Jodhpur in this regard;

(c) if so, the comprehensive details thereof along with the time-limit fixed for the same; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.